

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 221287

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

S E C R E T STATE 221287

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 221287 ACTION ASUNCION DATED 08 OCT

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 221287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: COUNTRY PROBLEM ASSESSMENT PAPERS

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF A PAPER DESCRIBING NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN YOUR COUNTRY AS IT RELATES TO UNITED STATES DRUG SCENE. TREAT THIS AS SECRET-NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION. THIS IS AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEWS. ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS ARISING FROM MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THIS PAPER SHOULD BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY CABLE. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AT MEXICO CITY REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS THIS ASSESSMENT PAPER WITH WASHINGTON REPS THERE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: LONG A CENTER FOR CONTRABAND ACTIVITY IN LATIN AMERICA, PARAGUAY'S ROLE IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING WAS SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED BY THE ARREST IN 1971 AND EXTRADITION TO THE US IN 1972 OF AUGUSTE RICORD. SINCE THAT TIME, PARAGUAY'S IMPORTANCE AS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT
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PAGE 02 STATE 221287

FOR HEROIN FROM EUROPE HAS DIMINISHED. COCAINE PRODUCED IN

BOLIVIA AND TRANSITING PARAGUAY FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO THE US IS, HOWEVER, A PROBLEM. SOME ILLEGAL TRADE IN DANGEROUS DRUGS ALSO TAKES PLACE IN PARAGUAY.

PROBLEMS: INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC COMING THROUGH THE LONG AND VIRTUALLY UNCONTROLLED PARAGUAYAN-BOLIVIAN BORDER IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. SMUGGLING IS A TRADITION THAT HAS BEEN TOLERATED, IF NOT ABETTED, BY THE GOVERNMENT. BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY PREVAILS IN ALL ASPECTS OF PARAGUAYAN ADMINISTRATION.

ASSESSMENT: THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD SINCE THE EXTRADITION OF RECORD. END TEXT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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